Èvôye: Walloon In Survival Mode

A Hundred Years Ago, 90% Of Walloons Spoke Their Regional Language In All Circumstances Of Life. Four Generations Were Enough To See This Practice Decline To Its Near-disappearance. However, Walloon Is Still Alive And Well.

by Victor Broisson , Thibault Debrus and Igor Beghin

May 22, 2021 - 09:00 Share Tweet Estimated time: 34 min. 30 sec.

Photos: Igor Beghin (CCBY NC SA)

35,000 works in Walloon or about Walloon, such is the immense heritage preserved by Baptiste Frankinet at the Library of Dialects of Wallonia (BDW), in Liège. Current president of the Society of Walloon Language and Literature, he shows us around this exceptional place and immerses us in a world that remains, despite its decline, very dynamic.



"When I first arrived here, I never imagined I would come across such wealth..." Baptiste Frankinet (34 years old) wears many hats and embodies the rejuvenation of an environment that is struggling to renew itself.

Whether in the media, in schools, in church, in the arts (song, theatre, literature) or in research, there are many people, everywhere in Wallonia, who want to enrich and pass on this heritage. So, through this podcast, we take you to meet these people who continue to keep the Walloon language alive.

A good thing everyone loves!

Walloon is the most widespread regional language in Wallonia, but it is not the only one. In the West, Picard is spoken; in the South-East, Champenois and Gaumais.

To discover these different languages, go to the Sound Atlas of the Languages and Dialects of Belgium.

Thanks to Baptiste Frankinet, Jacques Warnier, Cindy Lorand and her djônes, to the scole di wallon d'Nameur (Joëlle Spierkel and her students), Bernard Va Vynckt, Jacques Desmet, Jean-Luc Fauconnier, Michel Francard and to the Rèlîs Namurwès (Bernard Thiry, Joseph Dewez).